

Travel Restriction

In order to protect public safety, prevent soil erosion, and protect vegetation on Sheep Mountain, motorized travel is restricted to the existing access route(s) along the travel restriction area boundary shown on the attached map and described below. All other routes and areas within the travel restriction boundary are closed to motorized use, except those routes serving as access to designated parking areas or the designated permitted use site.

In accordance with *CFR 9268.3 (d) (1), the BLM public lands within the BLM boundary lines in Section 9, north along the west boundary line of Section 5 and north-trending access road in Sections 5 and 32, east and south along the existing access road into Sections 33 and 4, are restricted from motorized vehicle use (see Sheep Mtn Temporary Travel Restriction Map). Access to designated parking areas at the base of Sheep Mountain and to a designated permitted use site is allowed. Motorized use on the slopes of Sheep Mountain are damaging the area's natural resources and creating a public safety hazard. Routine field checks will be conducted to ensure that this travel restriction is honored. Buck and rail closures have been installed to prevent use beyond designated access points.

**(d)(1) Closure of Lands. In the management of lands to protect the public and assure proper resource utilization, conservation, and protection, public use and travel may be temporarily restricted. Areas may be closed temporarily to:*

- (i) Protect the public health and safety;*
- (ii) Prevent excessive erosion;*
- (iii) Prevent unnecessary destruction of plant and wildlife habitat;*
- (iv) Protect the natural environment*

(2) Penalties. Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any closure order issued under 9268.3 shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 12 months or both.

This temporary closure will not preclude future travel management designations for this area, to be completed in conjunction with ongoing travel management planning within the next few years.

If you have any questions about this closure or the travel management planning process, please contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Stacey Antilla at (970) 724-3039.

John F. Ruhs
Field Manager

Date 8/31/05